2025 High School Playwriting Judging Criteria

1. Name of Reviewer *

   _____

2. Name of Script *

   _____

THEME

The term theme can be defined as the underlying meaning of a story. It is the message the writer is trying to convey through the story.

3. (Theme) Was the overall theme of the script clear? *

   Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	clear

   difficult to determine

4. (Theme) Did the writer include specific details or ideas to support that theme? *

   Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
no	○	○	○	○	○	yes

CONSTRUCTION

5. (Construction) According to the follow definition, there are five elements in a plot   *
    line: exposition/background information, rising action (that which complicates the
    story), climax/crisis, falling action, and resolution.) How many of these elements
    are found within the play?

    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	all elements included

    one element included

6. (Construction) Does the overall conflict of the play seem clear and fitting? *

    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	greatest

    lowest

STORY

7. (Story) How would you rate the overall story of the play? *

    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	clear

    difficult to determine

8. (Story) Does the playwright tell the story well? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	clear

difficult to determine

CHARACTERS

9. (Characters) Does each character have a purpose in helping to further the story? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	haracters have a purpose in furthering the story

characters appear for no purpose

10. (Characters) Are they believably written for the world of this play? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	all believably written for the world of the play

not realistic

DIALOGUE

11. (Dialogue) Is the dialogue appropriate for the play? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	yes

not at all

12. (Dialogue) Do the characters sound unique and different from each other? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	yes

not at all

CREATIVITY

13. (Creativity) Is there a quality/aspect in this play that makes it memorable for you? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	very much so

not at all

14. (Creativity) Did you enjoy reading this script? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
	○	○	○	○	○	very much so

not at all